

IRC Alert

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What's New

Earth Day Page

<http://elibraryusa.state.gov>

Check out our Earth Day page for resources related to environmental issues available through eLibraryUSA (<http://elibraryusa.state.gov>). Researchers can get access to eLibraryUSA via IRC Membership.

Highlight Documents

2-1/H

GROWING UP GREEN

eJournal USA, Department of State, March 2012.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>

More than half the world's population is currently younger than 25, with even higher percentages of youth living in developing countries. Millions of young people are making it clear that they do not want to inherit or pass on a world threatened by climate change, poverty and illness. Instead, they are using their creativity, energy and persistence to set the world on a more sustainable path. This issue of eJournal USA explores how young people are leading the way to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future. From launching their own environmental organizations to developing alternative energy resources, today's youth have what it takes to make the world a better place.



2-2/H

ENTERPRISING WOMEN, THRIVING SOCIETIES

eJournal USA, Department of State, March 2012.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>

Study after study has shown that the economic empowerment of women leads to poverty alleviation. As countries' economic output grows, the range of options for women to contribute to the economy expands. Around the world women entrepreneurs are increasingly visible as they start and grow their ventures into successful small businesses or global enterprises. This issue of eJournal USA encourages women to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions.



U.S.— PAKISTAN RELATIONS

2-3/UP

THE BROKEN US-PAKISTAN PARTNERSHIP

By Shashank Joshi

Current History, Vol. 111, No. 744, April 2012, pp. 141-147.

“Nearly three decades on, Pakistan is fighting two wars: one with, and one against, the United States. And after a decade of rising temperatures in Afghanistan, it looks as though Pakistan has allowed the water to boil over—with grievous consequences for the relationship between Washington and Islamabad. Indeed, as American forces begin to trickle out of Afghanistan, and as Pakistan continues to be seized by domestic political convulsions, the prospects for prolonged cooperation dim by the day. Pakistani leverage over the United States is shrinking as fast as Washington’s patience, and America is now traveling down a path toward containment of Pakistan. Understanding the contours and risks of a containment strategy will be one of the most important tasks for observers of South Asia in the years ahead.”

2-4/UP

MY DRONE WAR

By Pir Zubair Shah and Micah Zenko

Foreign Policy, Vol. 192, No. 9, March/April 2012, pp. 56-63.

Although the drone campaign has become the linchpin of the Obama administration's counterterrorism strategy in Central Asia people know virtually nothing about it. The author spent more than half a decade tracking this most secret of wars across northern Pakistan, taking late-night calls from intelligence agents, sorting through missile fragments at attack sites, counting bodies and graves, interviewing militants and victims. Yet even he can say very little for certain about what has happened. Pakistan's worsening anti-Americanism is driven more by the portrayal of the drones in the Pakistani media, which paints them as a scourge targeting innocent civilians, than by the drones themselves. Few Pakistanis have actually visited the tribal areas or even know much about them. Until the US and Pakistan come clean about the program, though, it is an image that will persist, worsening the

frictions within Pakistan's already divided society and between the US and Pakistan. That's too bad, because in reality Pakistanis are deeply torn about the drones.

2-5/UP

PAKISTAN: U.S. Foreign Assistance

By Susan B. Epstein and K. Alan Kronstadt

Congressional Research Service Report, April 10, 2012.

Pakistan has been among the leading recipients of U.S. foreign assistance both historically and in recent years. The country arguably is as important to forwarding U.S. security interests as any in the world. U.S. assistance to Pakistan has fluctuated considerably over the past 60 years. In the wake of 9/11, however, aid to Pakistan has increased steadily as the Bush and Obama Administrations both characterized Pakistan as a crucial U.S. partner in efforts to combat terrorism and to promote stability in both Afghanistan and South Asia. The 112th Congress has been focused measures to reduce the federal budget deficit. This backdrop may influence congressional debate over the third-ranking U.S. aid recipient, Pakistan—a country vital to U.S. national security interests but that some say lacks accountability and even credibility.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

2-6/IS

AFGHANS LOOK AT 2014

By: Thomas Barfield

Current History, Vol. 111, No. 744, April 2012, pp. 123-129.

While many Afghans are highly ambivalent about the presence of foreign forces in their country, they fear a return to civil war even more. Today, as international powers seek to become less involved in the country, Afghans worry how their immediate neighbors will respond. Pakistan already provides sanctuary and aid to the Taliban. It has made clear its desire to see them back in power in Kabul. Afghans therefore view Pakistan as their most disruptive neighbor, as well as the only one with which they have an unresolved territorial dispute. Pakistan is also determined to keep Indian influence in Afghanistan to a minimum and is willing to interfere in Afghan politics to achieve this end.

2-7/IS

THE ENDURING MADRASA MYTH

By C. Christine Fair

Current History, Vol. 111, No. 744, April 2012, pp. 135-140.

Madrasas remain a worrying issue for US policy makers concerned about the terrorism threat that Pakistan continues to present both in the region and beyond. Yet the widespread acceptance of the purported ties between Islamic schools and militancy in Pakistan relies on a number of empirically flawed assumptions and assertions regarding the prevalence of madrasa enrollment, parental educational preferences, the relationship between madrasa and non-madrasa education, and the roles that madrasas play in fostering militancy. In fact, ongoing debates over Pakistan's madrasas are focused on the wrong set of questions. Reframing this debate is important because the staying power of madrasa-related myths has significantly affected US policy in the region and has even undermined those within Pakistan who seek to reform the educational system.

2-8/IS

THE FUTURE OF WAR: The FP Survey

By Margaret Slattery

Foreign Policy, Vol. 192, No. 9, March/April 2012, pp. 78-79.

As the United States scales back its military budget and draws down in Iraq and Afghanistan, global security threats show few signs of diminishing. Tensions with Iran and Pakistan are growing, and a rising China is flexing its muscles. What is the future of war? We asked top military experts and national security professionals to assess the most dangerous security threats out there--and how to confront them in an age of austerity.

2-9/IS

IT'S NOT JUST AL-QAEDA: Stability in the Most Dangerous Region

By Paul D. Miller

World Affairs, Vol. 174, No. 6, March/April, 2012, pp. 63-72.

It was, of course, al-Qaeda's attack on the US homeland that triggered the intervention in Afghanistan, but wars, once started, always involve broader considerations than those present at the firing of the first shot. The war in Afghanistan now affects all of America's

interests across South Asia: Pakistan's stability and the security of its nuclear weapons, NATO's credibility, relations with Iran and Russia, transnational drug-trafficking networks, and more. America leaves the job in Afghanistan unfinished at its peril. The chorus of voices in the Washington policy establishment calling for withdrawal is growing louder. In response to this pressure, President Obama has pledged to withdraw the surge of thirty thousand US troops by September 2012--faster than US military commanders have recommended--and fully transition leadership for the country's security to the Afghans in 2013. These decisions mirror the anxieties of the electorate: fifty-six percent of Americans surveyed recently by the Pew Research Center said that the US should remove its troops as soon as possible.

2-10/IS

UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD IN THE WAKE OF CONFLICTS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

By John D. Negroponte

American Foreign Policy Interests, Vol. 34, No. 1, 2012, pp. 1-4.

"The United States has just traversed a very convulsive and difficult decade. The events of 9/11 led us into two major conflicts, neither of which has yet been fully resolved. At the end of the decade, our country and much of the world entered into a financial and economic crisis that raises fundamental questions about the U.S. position in the world. Whereas in the 1990s we were often referred to as the "sole remaining superpower," today commentary abounds about the U.S. decline and loss of power in relation to certain other nations of the world." As a former diplomat and national security practitioner, Negroponte examines what he believe is happening in terms of US role on the world stage and offers some thoughts as to the way forward for U.S. policy.

2-11/IS

U.S. GRAND STRATEGY AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

By Audrey Kurth Cronin

Orbis, Vol. 56, No. 2, 2012, pp. 192-214.

Ten years into a trillion dollar effort to answer the attacks of September 11, 2001, it is difficult to tell whether U.S. counterterrorism is achieving its intended effects, much less explain how it fits within a viable American grand strategy. As dramatic changes

unfold in the Arab world, experts still debate whether or not the United States is winning the fight against al Qaeda. While there is clear progress, terrorism remains a serious threat to the United States, its allies, and especially its Muslim-majority partners throughout South Asia, the Gulf, the Middle East and North Africa. Many questions remain. What are the full implications of the killing of Osama bin Laden? Has al Qaeda weakened, or merely evolved and metastasized? Is the outcome of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars crucial to countering terrorism against the United States? Are our partners countering recruitment and denying safe haven? Is further radicalization and weak governance in Pakistan, Yemen, and elsewhere likely to lead to a resurgence of anti-U.S. terrorism? Is the upheaval in the Arab world undermining U.S. counterterrorism? Is the American homeland and economic base secure? And most important of all: Is the U.S. government ready and able to respond to a future attack? These are complex but vital questions.

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

2-12/DGI

THE CASE FOR SPACE: Why We Should Keep Reaching for the Stars

By Neil deGrasse Tyson

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 91, No. 2, March/April 2012, pp. 22-33.

In 2010, US President Barack Obama articulated his vision for the future of American space exploration, which included an eventual manned mission to Mars. Such an endeavor would surely cost hundreds of billions of dollars -- maybe even \$1 trillion. Whatever the amount, it would be an expensive undertaking. If the US commits to the goal of reaching Mars, it will almost certainly do so in reaction to the progress of other nations -- as was the case with NASA, the Apollo program, and the project that became the International Space Station. The partisanship surrounding space exploration and the retrenching of US space policy are part of a more general trend: the decline of science in the US. As its interest in science wanes, the country loses ground to the rest of the industrialized world in every measure of technological proficiency. Even in troubled economic times, the US is a sufficiently wealthy nation to embrace an investment in its own future in a way that would drive the economy, the

country's collective ambitions, and, above all, the dreams of coming generations.

2-13/DGI

THE CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS OF DEMOCRACY

By Vladislav Inozemtsev

American Interests, Vol. 7, No. 4, March/April 2012.

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=1188>

In the late 1980s, at Cold War's end, many believed that democracy, as obvious political best practice and key driver of strategic success, would without doubt spread and ultimately become universal. A prominent advocate of this prediction, Francis Fukuyama, stated his view in more careful and conditional terms than the many who did not read his fine print, but nuance aside, the coming global triumph of democracy was in those days a widespread expectation that many prominent observers, not least Samuel Huntington with his earlier "third wave" analysis, played a part in bringing about. It is no longer so widespread a view. The ostensible reasons are many, but let us note the three most common themes.

2-14/DGI

GOD AND CAESAR IN AMERICA: Why Mixing Religion and Politics is Bad for Both

By David E. Campbell and Robert D. Putnam

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 91, No. 2 March/April 2012, pp. 34-43.

From the day the Pilgrims stepped off the Mayflower, religion has played a prominent role in American public life. The faithful have been vital participants in nearly every major social movement in US history, progressive as well as conservative. Still, the close intertwining of religion and politics in the last 40 years is unusual, especially in the degree of the politicization of religion itself. With the rise of the religious right came the much-discussed God gap between Republicans and Democrats. Each year, fewer and fewer Americans identify as secular Republicans or religious Democrats. The consequences of the melding of religion and party politics extend beyond electoral politics; the commingling has also reshaped the US' religious landscape. Indeed, religion has historically inspired change across the US political spectrum. American public discourse -- and the country at large -- will be impoverished if religion is reduced to a mere force for partisan

mobilization.

2-15/DGI

HUMAN SECURITY: Undermining Human Rights?

By Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann

Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 34, No. 1, 2012, pp. 88-112.

This article warns that the human security discourse and agenda could inadvertently undermine the international human rights regime. Insofar as human security identifies new threats to well-being, new victims of those threats, new duties of states, or new mechanisms for dealing with threats at the inter-state level, it adds to the established human rights regime. When it simply rephrases human rights principles without identifying new threats, victims, duty-bearers, or mechanisms, however, at best it complements human rights and at worst it undermines them. A narrow view of human security is a valuable addition to the international normative regime requiring state and international action against severe threats to human beings.

2-16/DGI

LESSONS FROM STEVE JOBS: A Digital Framework for Tapping into Patrons' Emotions

By Helene Blowers

Computers in Libraries, Vol. 32 Issue 2, March 2012, pp. 22-24.

The author discusses the lessons she learned from the late Apple chief executive Steve Jobs and their application to the development of a digital framework for the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) in Ohio. Among the strategic core tenets of his beliefs are the importance of harmony between hardware and software and emotional appeal of inspiring design. She cites the high value she placed on the human factor side of a strategy. The elements of her strategy framework include empowerment.

2-17/DGI

OBAMA, EXPLAINED

By James Fallows

Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 309, No. 2, March 2012, pp. 54-70.

The article assesses U.S. president Barack Obama's presidency since the 2008 presidential campaign. The article discusses his stance with Republican members of congress, desirable qualities in presidents including

empathy and analytical ability, and claims about Obama's inexperience and emotional engagement. Also discussed are Obama's 2010 health care bill, his handling of the 2008 financial crisis, and his restoration of the U.S. international reputation, according to U.S. senator Tom Daschle.

2-18/DGI

POLICE MISCONDUCT: Will Excessive Force, Racial Profiling Be Curbed?

By Kenneth Jost

CQ Global Researcher, Vol. 22, No. 13, April 6, 2012.

<http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher>

The U.S. Department of Justice is stepping up its oversight of local police departments, pressuring them to limit the use of force in civilian encounters and eliminate racial profiling during traffic stops and other enforcement. Over the past year, the Justice Department's civil rights division has criticized long-troubled police agencies in such places as New Orleans, Seattle and Maricopa County, Ariz., which includes Phoenix. The department's power stems from a 1994 law allowing the federal government to identify a "pattern or practice" of constitutional violations and threaten court action to force police agencies to adopt changes.

2-19/DGI

RIO + 20: An Endangered Species?

By Timothy O'Riordan and others.

Environment, Vol. 54, No. 2, March 2012, pp. 44-51.

During the third week of June 2012, the United Nations will convene Rio+20, officially known as the UN Summit on Sustainable Development (UNSSD), to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Rio+20 will be the fourth in a series of global UN conferences on environment, natural resources, and sustainability. This introductory article reviews the scope and stated purposes of the Rio+20 conference, and provides a framework for a series of articles that will appear in subsequent issues of *Environment* on the key themes the world must address at Rio+20 and beyond, amid unprecedented turmoil in national economies, global financial markets, and geopolitics.

2-20/DGI

SOCIAL MANIA

By Roger S. Glass

American Teacher, Vol. 96, No. 4, March/April 2012, pp. 12-14.

Problems that can permeate the culture while some educators have managed to tap into their students' enthusiasm for social media, other American Federation of Teachers (AFT) members complain, sometimes vehemently, that the onslaught of new media has created problems that can permeate a school's culture, including cheating on tests, and fights and bullying sparked by a photo or statement posted online. When the district restricted access to social media sites after a revealing photo of one student turned up on Facebook, the kids figured out a way around the filter, Stewart says.

2-21/DGI

SOFTWARE THAT DOES IT ALL

By Megan Guess and Jeff Bertolucci

PC World, Vol. 30, No. 3, March 2012, pp. 58-65.

The article reviews computer software tools for tasks including financial planning, word processing, and music organizing such as iTunes, Microsoft Word, and Intuit Quicken. PC World examined software tools for handling 11 categories of common (and essential) PC tasks: presentations, financial planning, note taking, file management, photo editing, email, word processing, music organizing, remote access, cleanup/optimization, and backup. In each instance, we identified the dominant program, a promising challenger, and (where applicable) an online alternative. Our category coverage invites you to consider the pros and cons of each type of contender: incumbents, up-and-comers, and Web apps.

2-22/DGI

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF BLOGS FOR RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

By Jana L. Bouwma-Gearhart and James L. Bess

The Journal of Higher Education, Vol. 83, No. 2, March/April 2012.

The authors explore blogging as an innovation in academic communication and collaboration with potential for overcoming the traditional limitations; and discuss the significance of blogging to the higher education research community. The article explore the benefits

and limitations of traditional academic research, collaboration, and knowledge dissemination, and discuss the potential of blogs towards better meeting the higher education research community's needs. It presents possible parameters of use, reward structures, and how the field can model this innovative means of academic collaboration.

2-23/DGI

WHO WILL FEED THE EXTRA 2 BILLION?

By Rob Bailey

The World Today, February/March 2012, pp. 38-39.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org>

With the increasing population concentrated in the poorest and most food insecure countries, the author, a senior research fellow on Energy, Environment and Development Program at Chatham House, discusses the global food security and the challenges faced by the global food system, focusing on the current investment that surges into developing country agriculture. To sum up, investment in land creates winners and losers whether real or perceived, and can play into existing social and political tensions. This raises the risk of conflict, particularly where investments do not deliver clear benefits or appear tainted by corruption. Responsible investment can reduce (though not eliminate) these risks: ensuring transparency, consulting with local communities, creating jobs and livelihood opportunities, developing infrastructure, conserving natural resources and so on. Precisely the kind of investment needed if we are to meet the global food security challenge.

2-24/DGI

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By Sarah Glazer

CQ Global Researcher, Vol. 6, No. 7, April 3, 2012.

<http://library.cqpress.com/globalresearcher>

The women's rights movement has made enormous strides globally in the last 15 years, with most countries signing treaties to end gender discrimination. But with conservative Muslim parties gaining power in some post-Arab Spring governments, feminists fear women's rights in the Middle East — already lagging by world standards — may be further threatened. Although women were at the forefront in last year's protests, female candidates have been scarce in recent elections. One solution being considered: electoral gender quotas, already used in about 100 countries. In

developed nations, women comprise the majority of recent university graduates, but females receive smaller paychecks than their male counterparts and rarely reach top management positions. Some experts attribute this to women's tendency to work part-time or take time off for parenting. Nordic countries are encouraging fathers to share parenting duties, while some countries are boosting the number of female business leaders through mandatory gender quotas for corporate boards.

2-25/DGI

WOMEN AT THE TOP: How Women at the Top Elevate the Bottom Line (Report)
Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs,
Department of State, March 1, 2012

<http://www.state.gov/e/eb/rls/othr/2012/184988.htm>

The Subcommittee on Women of the Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy, U.S. Department of State, conducted a survey of the available studies on the economic value of women at the top of corporations and organizations. Members of the Subcommittee volunteered to research and examine numerous studies, and then to publish insights, recommendations, and programs that promote women to the most senior positions in corporations and organizations. The report aims to understand why female leadership at the top of organizations results in more profitable and successful operations.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

2-26/ES

THE 12 GREATEST ENTREPRENEURS OF OUR TIME AND WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM THEM.

By John A. Byrne

Fortune, Vol. 165, No. 5, April 9, 2012, pp. 68-86

The article focuses on 12 entrepreneurs that the author considers the greatest entrepreneurs of his time. He mentions online commerce company Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos. He comments on how entrepreneur Steve Jobs of computer company Apple Inc. relied on his intuition when creating products such as the Macintosh computer or iPad tablet computer. Entrepreneur Bill Gates of the computer company Mi-

crosoft is discussed. Other entrepreneurs mentioned include Fred Smith of shipping company FedEx Corp., Larry Page and Sergey Brin of internet company Google, Howard Schultz of the coffee chain restaurant Starbucks, Mark Zuckerberg of the online social network Facebook, John Mackey of the grocery chain Whole Foods, Herb Kelleher of Southwest Airlines, and Sam Walton of retail store Wal-Mart Stores.

2-27/ES

DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND THE POLITICS OF COMMITMENT

By Caroline Hughes and Jane Hutchison

Third World Quarterly, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2012, pp. 17-36.

International aid agencies have experienced a 'political turn' over the past decade, with political economy analyses becoming increasingly numerous as a means to drive development effectiveness. Yet aid agencies have so far failed to shift their aid modalities in response. The problem lies in an inadequate conceptualization of 'politics'. Most donors continue to see development as a public good, rather than as the focus of contestation in a context of societal struggle, and consequently fail to take oppositional forces sufficiently seriously. This facilitates the misapplication of terms such as 'partnership' and 'ownership', contributing to failures in efforts to promote reform. A more truly political analysis of aid intervention entails two innovations: the use of structural analysis to distinguish between interests in reform; and the use of this distinction, in turn, to inform the practice of taking sides in political struggles. Case studies of international aid programs in Cambodia and the Philippines illustrate how the failure of donors to take sides with particular reformers has resulted in lost opportunities to achieve concrete outcomes from development projects.

2-28/ES

INSIDE POWER, INC.

By David Rothkopf

Foreign Policy, Vol. 192, No. 9, March/April 2012, pp. 45-48.

Over the last century, the world's biggest private-sector organizations have come to dwarf all but the largest governments in resources, global reach, and influence. At the same time, even wealthy countries are now struggling with overwhelmed bureaucracies, budget crises, and plummeting confidence in government. And governments everywhere are compromised

by the limitations of their own borders in an era when the issues that affect their people are increasingly transnational. Today's corporations often conduct something very much like their own foreign policy. The result is societies that are profoundly out of whack, with far too much power in the hands of massive, often distant corporate entities that are only accountable, fundamentally, to their shareholders. Meanwhile, the public is seeing that the increasingly weak institutions designed to give them a voice are unable to meet some of the most basic terms of the social contract, as the issues that need to be addressed are effectively beyond their jurisdiction.

2-29/ES

THE LOOMING CHALLENGE TO U.S. COMPETITIVENESS

By Michael E. Porter and Jan W. Rivkin
Harvard Business Review, Vol. 90, No. 3,
pp. 54-62, March 2012.

The authors examine U.S. competitiveness and its economic fundamental challenge: a series of underlying structural changes that could permanently impair America's ability to maintain the living standards of its citizens. Although the U.S. retains profound competitive strengths—for instance, in higher education and entrepreneurship—those strengths are increasingly threatened by weaknesses in areas such as the tax code, basic education, macroeconomic policies, and regulation. Steps to reverse the loss will require a new focus by government and business leaders.

2-30/ES

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR GASOLINE-FREE CARS

By Jim Motavalli
Futurist, Vol. 46, No. 2, March/April 2012,
pp. 6-7.

The article discusses electric and hybrid cars, arguing that they have a promising future. Vehicles addressed include battery electrics, plug-in hybrids, and hydrogen fuel-cell cars. Challenges such as a lack of hydrogen filling stations, the need for electric vehicle (EV) charging units, and the impact on consumers' electricity bills are noted. The author mentions the impact of rising oil costs, the potential of Chinese demand for electric cars, and the building of smart homes in Japan. He notes a visit to Panasonic's Eco Ideas House, a prototype smart home in Tokyo, Japan.

2-31/ES

THRIVING IN THE AUTOMATED ECONOMY

By Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrews McAfee
Futurist, Vol. 46, No. 2, March/April 2012,
pp. 27-31.

The article discusses the impact of technologies on the well-being of workers and their societies. It argues that, although the Industrial Revolution coincided with increasing numbers of jobs, there is no law of economics that states that that will always be true. As remedies to possible unemployment, the authors recommend finding ways for workers to partner with technologies, cultivating creative entrepreneurship, and investing in human capital. They offer a plan for the U.S. economy that involves education reforms, investment in research and infrastructure, and removal of regulations that are said to inhibit innovation.

2-32/ES

WHY WE STILL NEED THE WORLD BANK

By Robert B. Zoellick
Foreign Affairs, Vol. 91, No. 2, March/April 2012,
pp. 66-78.

The essay explains the importance of the World Bank to constructing a just international economic order. The author explains that the organization promotes economic development and multilateralism in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis. It has been important in developing international food security, and works to promote economic recovery in developing nations.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

2-33/SV

ACTORS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

By Lynette Rice
Entertainment Weekly, No. 1196, March 2, 2012,
pp. 48-54.

The seven-page article profiles each of these young actors, spotlights a few more, adds a look at Down syndrome on reality TV, and visits with Chris Burke, who for a long time was the best-known actor with Down syndrome for his role on the series *Life Goes On*. In addition to giving all these actors some great

publicity, the article by Lynette Rice looks at the challenge of finding more roles for actors with down syndrome.

2-34/SV

ARTS EDUCATION: Does Arts Training Improve Social and Academic Skills?

By Beth Baker

CQ Global Researcher, Vol. 22, No. 11, March 16, 2012.

<http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher>

Arts education faces serious challenges, even as teachers and business leaders recognize its value to students as never before. A growing body of research suggests that the arts offer students a unique, valuable way to grow intellectually, socially and emotionally. Some researchers suggest high-quality arts education helps improve test scores and reduce tardiness and truancy. Others argue that even without such benefits, the arts are inherently good because they help children grow into creative, problem-solving adults with skills necessary for the 21st-century economy. But arts education — on the decline for more than two decades — is now threatened by shrinking school budgets and a narrowing of the curriculum because of federal and state testing and accountability mandates. Meanwhile, a small but growing number of schools are integrating the arts into academic courses and using the arts to help students overcome learning disabilities.

2-35/SV

THE CALL OF THE FUTURE

By Tom Vanderbilt

Wilson Quarterly, Vol. 36, No. 2, Spring 2012, pp. 52-56.

Today we worry about the social effects of the Internet. A century ago, it was the telephone that threatened to reinvent society. In 2009, the United States crossed a digital Rubicon: For the first time, the amount of data sent with mobile devices exceeded the sum of transmitted voice data. The shift was heralded in tech circles with prophetic fury: "The phone call is dead," pronounced a blogger at the Web site TechCrunch. Writing in *Wired*, journalist Clive Thompson observed, "This generation doesn't make phone calls, because everyone is in constant, lightweight contact in so many other ways: texting, chatting, and social network messaging." And the online news network True/Slant declared a paradox: "We're well on our way to becoming an incredibly disconnected connected soci-

ety."

2-36/SV

GOD, BUSH, AND OBAMA: Why the President Needs to Practice What He Preaches

By Andrew Preston

Foreign Affairs, April 3, 2012.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com>

Until very recently, scholars theorized that the advent of modernity would inexorably lead to a less religious world. Simply put, modernization equaled secularization. In Europe, that assumption was common to the theories of Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Sigmund Freud. In the United States, too, social scientists with policymaking influence, among them Walt Rostow and Daniel Bell, predicted the inevitable decline of religion as modernity marched forward. The world today disproves that thinking. At least in theory, the United States should be well poised to navigate a world of faith-based geopolitics. Its two most recent presidents, George W. Bush and Barack Obama, are by all accounts deeply religious and well versed in many of the tenets of Christianity. They have differed in their approaches to foreign policy, but both have made overt references to faith.

2-37/SV

IMMIGRATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

By Gordon H. Hanson

Cato Journal, Vol. 32, No. 1, Winter 2012, pp. 25-34.

As the 2012 presidential campaign gets under way, there will be intense public debate about the direction of economic policy. The continuing torpor of the US economy and mounting government debt oblige candidates to detail how they would improve prospects for economic growth and reduce the federal budget deficit. Immigration is a divisive issue that most national politicians prefer to avoid. Pres Obama checked his immigration box by making a halfhearted call for immigration reform in May 2011. Past improvements in living standards for American households have been largely the consequence of growth in the productivity of capital and labor. Each year, US universities conduct a global talent search for the brightest minds to admit to their graduate programs. Increasingly, foreign students occupy the top spots in the search. Opposition to immigration in the US is strongest regarding the admission of foreigners with low skill levels.

2-38/SV

THE MAN THAT JAZZ FORGOT

By Terry Teachout

Commentary, Vol. 133, No. 3, March 2012,
pp. 56-59.

The article presents a profile of the mid-20th century African American musician Louis Jordan, his group the Tympany Five, and their influence on the formation of rhythm and blues music. Details are given mapping the rise and fall of the group within the popular African American music scene of the 1940s and 1950s. Commentary is also given noting the features of the band's style and lasting influence on rhythm and blues music for decades to follow.

2-39/SV

THE MOBILITY MYTH

By Timothy Noah

The New Republic, March 1, 2012, pp. 14-16.

<http://www.tnr.com>

A nation that prides itself on its lack of class rigidity has, in short, become significantly more economically rigid than many other developed countries. America's image of itself has been that it has unequal economic outcomes, but a lot more equality of economic opportunity than elsewhere. How did our perception of ourselves end up so far out of sync with reality? It might have been true once, but how true is it today?

2-40/SV

POLYGAMY, TOO: Muslims Have Started Seeking their Own Redefinition of Marriage

By David J. Rusin

National Review, Vol. 64, No. 7, April 16, 2012,
pp. 22-24.

Islam sanctions polygamy--more specifically, polygyny--allowing Muslim men to keep up to four wives at once. Though marrying a second woman while remaining married to the first is prohibited across the Western world, including all 50 U.S. states, a Muslim can circumvent the law by wedding one woman in a government-recognized marriage and joining with others in unlicensed religious unions devoid of legal standing. With the legal definition of marriage expanding in various U.S. states, as it has in other nations, should we anticipate rising demands that we recognize polygamous marriages?

VIDEO ALERT

The following videos are available in the Pakistan-American Friendship Reading Room in Skardu. For more information, please call at 058154-920215

CHANGE YOUR THINKING, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

DVD, July 2007, 108 minutes

The Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life DVD helps you understand why you are struggling with the successful accomplishment of your goals and shows you step-by-step how to neutralize the blockages impeding your success using HK.

THE ENTREPRENEURS

DVD, 2-part series, 43 minutes each

Bold ideas are the driving force of entrepreneurship—but a unique vision must also mesh with the realities of finance, production, publicity, and management. This two-part CNBC series provides fascinating case studies in starting and growing a company, from the first spark of inspiration to the scramble for media exposure to the point at which professional operations management and high-volume manufacturing are implemented.

POWER TALKING - How to Say What You Mean & Get What You Want

DVD, November 2003, 125 minutes.

This content-loaded seminar will give you specific ideas on how to be more positive and persuasive in everyday conversational interactions. Whether routinely communicating with co-workers or clients, or defusing hostile customers, or seeking to build sales cooperation, or simply aiming to project a more positive image for your organization, you'll see results fast.

STEVE JOBS: One Last Thing

DVD, December 2011, 60 minutes.

Who can best illuminate the life and work of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs? This documentary tribute to the late business wizard features interviews with Jobs colleagues as well as the chroniclers of his biography who offer new insights about his ability to "think different." The program also features an exclusive sit-down with

Jobs himself as he provides unforgettable advice to others.

BOOK ALERT

The following books are available in the Lincoln Corner at the International Islamic University, Islamabad. For more information, please call at 051-9257996

CLASSROOMS THAT SPARK!: Recharge and Revive Your Teaching

By Emma S. McDonald

Jossey-Bass; 2nd edition (March 2010), ISBN 0470497270

Veteran teachers Emma McDonald and Dyan Hershman have assembled a treasure chest of practical teaching techniques built on a solid foundation of theory. In their friendly, practical tone, the authors offer hundreds of easy and effective ideas on everything from classroom organization and management to working with parents. Whether you have been in the classroom for thirty years or one, *Classrooms that Spark!* is sure to enrich your teaching repertoire and breathe new life into your classroom."

EFFECTIVE BUSINESS WRITING : A Guide For Those who Write On the Job

By Maryann V. Piotrowski

Collins Reference; 2nd Revised edition (March 1996), ISBN 0062733818

From persuasive memos to complaint letters, sales letters to executive summaries -- this exceedingly useful guide helps the business worker write clearly and in an appropriate format, style and tone. Numerous examples show how to overcome writer's block, organize messages for maximum impact, achieve an easy-to-read style, find an efficient writing system and much more.

GUIDE TO MANAGERIAL COMMUNICATION: Effective Business Writing and Speaking

By Mary Munter

Prentice Hall; 9 edition (January 2011), ISBN 0132147718

Guide to Managerial Communication is a clear, concise, practical text for cultivating effective written and

oral communication in a managerial, business, government, or professional context. Munter provides general guidelines, procedures, and techniques in this revised edition.

HALF THE SKY: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

By Nicholas D. Kristof

Vintage; Reprint edition (June 2010), ISBN 0307387097

Critics, universally inspired by *Half the Sky*, used their reviews as an opportunity to take up its message. They praised not only Kristof and WuDunn's clear moral stance and explanation of the issues but also the way they combined individual women's stories and practical advice to give the book an optimistic tone. Reviewers pointed out some flaws, particularly the authors' focus on individual action (such as providing a list of hospitals and schools to direct charity to) while neglecting to criticize the policies of Western governments. As more than one reviewer pointed out, Saudi Arabia, a country with one of the worst records of oppressing women, is a U.S. ally. Nevertheless, critics encouraged readers to pick up *Half the Sky*, which, according to the *Seattle Times*, "will ignite a grassroots revolution like the one that eliminated slavery."

PRODUCING AND DIRECTING THE SHORT FILM AND VIDEO

By Peter W. Rea

Focal Press; 4 edition (March 2010), ISBN 0240811747

There are extensive examples from two award-winning short narrative films (*Lunch Date* and *Truman*) and one short documentary (*Mirror Mirror*) and fascinating, insightful quotes from the filmmakers themselves describing the problems they encountered and how they solved them. Rounding out the book are stills and scripts from the three films, samples of various production forms, and appendices with information on festivals, grants, insurance and film schools.